

Serial No.: 10/807,368
Docket No.: R0043CON3
Amendment Dated September 27, 2005
Responsive to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

A complete listing of all claims is presented below.

- 5 1. (Original) A surgical apparatus comprising:
 an elongated cannula having a lumen extending therein between proximal and
 distal ends;
 a retractor disposed to slide within the lumen to extend a distal end thereof beyond
 the distal end of the cannula;
10 an angling device attached near the distal end of the retractor and extending within
 the cannula toward the proximal end thereof for selectively deflecting the distal end of the
 retractor during extension thereof away from a central axis of the cannula in response to
 manipulation of the angling device near the proximal end of the cannula.
- 15 2. (Original) The surgical apparatus according to claim 1 in which the angling device
 includes a tension member extending within the cannula from attachment to the retractor beyond
 the distal end of the cannula, to a handle disposed near the proximal end of the cannula for
 selectively exerting tension on the retractor to deflect a portion of the retractor extended beyond
 the distal end of the cannula in response to manual pull applied to the handle relative to the
20 cannula.
3. (Original) The surgical apparatus according to claim 2 including an auxiliary
 lumen extending within the cannula between distal and proximal ends thereof; and
 the tension member extends through the auxiliary lumen
25 4. (Original) The surgical apparatus according to claim 2 in which the distal portion
 of the retractor is resiliently flexible for deflection in response to pull exerted thereon by the
 tension member.

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5. (Original) The surgical apparatus according to claim 2 in which at least the distal portion includes a resiliently flexible support that is slidably disposed within the lumen and that includes a cradle attached at a distal end thereof.

5 6. (Original) The surgical apparatus according to claim 5 in which the cradle is disposed to engage a vessel structure for selectively displacing the vessel structure in response to tensile force exerted on the retractor through the tension member attached thereto.

7. (Original) A method for selectively displacing a vessel structure using an
10 elongated cannula including a retractor disposed at the distal end of the cannula for engaging the vessel structure, the method comprising the steps for:

advancing the distal end of the cannula to a location adjacent a vessel structure;
engaging the vessel structure with the retractor; and
selectively deflecting the retractor to displace the vessel structure.

15 8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 in which the retractor includes an angling device attached to the retractor and extending in the cannula between distal and proximal ends thereof, the method further comprising the step for:

selectively manipulating the angling device near the proximal end of the cannula
20 to deflect the retractor and displace the vessel structure engaged therewith at the distal end of the cannula.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8 in which the angling device includes a
tension member attached to the retractor and to a handle near the proximal end of the cannula,
25 the method further comprising the step for:

manually manipulating the handle to exert deflecting force on the retractor
through the tension member.

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10. (New) The method according to claim 7 further including a sliding tube extending in the cannula and being movable over the retractor between a first position wherein the retractor protrudes from a distal end of the sliding tube and deflects at an angle with respect to the central axis of the cannula, and a second position wherein the sliding tube substantially encases the

5 retractor and straightens it, the method further comprising the step for:

selectively manipulating the sliding tube to deflect the retractor and displace the vessel structure engaged therewith at the distal end of the cannula.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10 in which a button is provided near the proximal end of the cannula for manipulating the sliding tube, the method further comprising the step for:

manually manipulating the button to displace the sliding tube from the first position to the second position, thus displacing the vessel structure.

12. (New) The method according to claim 7 wherein the retractor includes two legs projecting from the cannula and connected at a distal cradle for engaging the vessel structure, and wherein one of the retractor legs is rotationally connected to a sliding knob at a proximal end of the cannula, the method further comprising the step for:

manually manipulating the sliding knob to rotationally displace the one leg and twist the cradle, thus displacing the vessel structure.

13. (New) The method according to claim 7 further comprising the steps for:
positioning the distal end of the cannula near the vessel structure;
engaging the vessel structure with the retractor and selectively displacing the vessel structure laterally away from axial alignment with the elongated cannula;
providing a surgical tool disposed near the distal end of the cannula; and
engaging a branch vessel of the vessel structure with the surgical tool to sever the branch vessel from the vessel structure.

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14. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the angling device comprises a sliding tube extending in the cannula and being movable over the retractor between a first position wherein the retractor protrudes from a distal end of the sliding tube and deflects at an angle with respect to the central axis of the cannula, and a second position wherein the sliding
5 tube substantially encases the retractor and straightens it.

15. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 14 further including a button provided near the proximal end of the cannula for manipulating the sliding tube from the first position to the second position.

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16. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 15 further including a spring biasing the sliding tube into the first position.

17. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retractor includes two legs
15 projecting from the cannula and connected at a distal cradle for engaging a vessel, and further including a sliding knob at the proximal end of the cannula rotationally connected to one of the retractor legs for rotationally displacing the one leg and rotating the cradle.

18. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1 further including a surgical tool
20 supported in a lumen of the cannula and extending beyond the distal end thereof for simultaneous operation with the retractor for performing a surgical procedure on the vessel engaged by the retractor.

19. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 18 in which the retractor and the surgical
25 tool are relatively movable near the distal end of the cannula to facilitate severing a portion of the vessel engaged by the retractor.

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20. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retractor includes at least one arm slidably disposed within the lumen of the cannula that supports a vessel cradle in lateral orientation with respect to the arm.

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